

**761—163.8(315) Immediate opportunity projects.**

**163.8(1) General provisions.** The following provisions are applicable to immediate opportunity projects:

- a.* Immediate opportunity projects may be located on primary roads, secondary roads, city streets, state park roads or county conservation parkways.
- b.* There is no restriction on the number of applications per county or city that will be considered for RISE funding.
- c.* Counties and cities may apply for single-year or multiyear funding. Multiyear funding shall be limited to funding commitments from no more than three program years' allocations.
- d.* Applicants may use staff from other counties or cities, areawide planning organizations, areawide economic development organizations, or other jurisdictions to prepare application materials or administer projects.
- e.* There must be an adequate transportation justification for the roadway project. The proposed improvement need not be designed prior to project application, but the concept must generally be reasonable from a transportation planning and engineering standpoint and detailed enough to enable project cost estimates to be developed.

**163.8(2) Contents of applications.** Each application for an immediate opportunity project must contain the following:

- a.* General information, including applicant name, contact person, mailing address, telephone number, and other information of a general nature about the project proposal and the associated economic development activity.
- b.* Cost information, including the estimated total capital investment involved with the associated economic development activity, the estimated total cost of the roadway project, the amount of RISE funds requested for the roadway project, and the amount of non-RISE funds to be used to match or supplement RISE funding. Itemized breakdowns (showing the item, cost, and funding source) must be included for the total capital investment, the total roadway project cost, the RISE funds requested, and the non-RISE funds to be used to match or supplement RISE funding.
- c.* Data showing the impact of the associated economic development activity, including the number of direct jobs created or retained. Jobs created as a result of jobs being displaced elsewhere in the state shall not be considered direct jobs created for the purpose of evaluating the application.
  - (1) To expedite the review, the applicant shall provide the following data for each business included in the project justification: a list of in-state competitors; a list of in-state suppliers; the percentage of out-of-state sales; the effect on import substitution; long-range growth potential; and a list of all current and anticipated employment positions, both full- and part-time, the hourly wage for each, and the turnover rate.
  - (2) The applicant shall certify that each business will give hiring preference to residents of the state or local area, except for out-of-state employees offered a transfer to Iowa.
- d.* A preliminary project concept statement for the roadway project, including a location map, a sketch plan and a justification for the transportation improvement. In most cases, a sketch plan should include a simple plan and profile defining the horizontal and vertical geometrics and a typical roadway cross section defining pavement, shoulders, foreslope, and backslope or border treatment.
- e.* A time schedule for the total development, including the roadway project and the associated economic development activity.
- f.* For a road or street which is not currently dedicated to public use, written assurance of future dedication from the jurisdiction responsible or to be responsible for the road or street to be constructed or improved.
- g.* An official endorsement of the project proposal from the jurisdiction responsible or to be responsible for the road or street to be constructed or improved. The jurisdiction must also provide written assurance that it will adequately maintain the new or improved road or street.
- h.* Documentation showing that the threshold criteria of subrule 163.8(6) have been met.
- i.* Rescinded IAB 8/8/01, effective 7/20/01.

**163.8(3) *Submission of applications.*** Application instructions and forms for immediate opportunity projects are available from the office of systems planning or on the Internet at [www.dot.state.ia.us/forms](http://www.dot.state.ia.us/forms). An original and one copy of each completed application shall be submitted to the office of systems planning. Applications may be submitted at any time.

Once an application has been submitted, no further information concerning that application shall be accepted by the department from the applicant unless specifically requested by the department. Applications may be withdrawn by the applicant and resubmitted at any time. Resubmitted applications shall be dated accordingly.

**163.8(4) *Incomplete applications.*** An applicant must satisfy the application requirements outlined in this chapter of rules and must fully complete the official application form before its applications will be reviewed. An applicant shall be notified if an application is incomplete. An incomplete application shall be reviewed when it is resubmitted in a complete form by the applicant.

**163.8(5) *Verification of application materials.*** Complete applications shall be reviewed to verify the figures or statements in the applications. This may include site visits. If inaccuracies, omissions, or errors are found, the commission may rescind the commitment of funds or reevaluate the application based on the correct information. If an applicant loses funding through this process, the commission shall have complete discretion concerning the disposition of those funds, including awarding them to other applicants or carrying them over to the next programming cycle.

**163.8(6) *Threshold criteria.*** Funding commitment decisions for immediate opportunity projects shall be made on an individual basis. There is no competitive ranking of project applications. In order to gain a funding commitment, an application must meet all of the following threshold criteria:

*a.* The project must be related to an immediate, nonspeculative opportunity for permanent job creation or retention. The applicant county or city (or its agent) should be in the process of negotiating a location or retention decision with a developer or firm. This criterion may be satisfied by a resolution from the applicant county or city stating that it is involved in negotiations with a developer or firm.

*b.* The applicant must demonstrate that an immediate funding commitment is essential to influence the job location or retention decision.

*c.* The applicant must demonstrate that necessary arrangements have been made for nonroadway factors (e.g., labor force training, zoning, sewer, water, police and fire protection, financing, and permits) essential for the proposed job creation or job retention activity.

*d.* There must be at least 20 percent non-RISE financial participation in the roadway project, except as indicated in subparagraph (2) of this paragraph.

(1) This participation shall include only those items listed as eligible for RISE funding, and may be in the form of cash, the value of design engineering and construction inspection services, or the cost of eligible advance right-of-way acquisitions pursuant to paragraph 163.7(2)“a.” The applicant shall provide documentation to the department supporting the value of any noncash contribution to the project.

(2) The commission may approve a participation amount that is less than 20 percent if it determines that the applicant city or county is economically distressed.

*e.* There must be a strong likelihood that the total development, including the roadway project, can be completed in a timely manner. It is up to the applicant to identify a time schedule and maintain it. This time schedule may be adjusted when agreed to by the commission if the project involves unusually complex engineering studies, extensive real estate negotiations, extensive analysis for environmental clearances, or unusually complex planning for associated development. The commission may withdraw funding if time schedules have been misrepresented or have not been maintained.

**163.8(7) *Review and funding of applications.***

*a.* The staff of the department shall review complete immediate opportunity project applications and may consult with other organizations with economic development responsibilities. As part of the review, the staff shall evaluate the effect of the proposed project on the state economy using the following factors: consistency with the state economic development plan; diversification of the state economy; the impact on in-state suppliers, competitors, and import substitution; percentage of out-of-state sales; the quality of employment positions; and the record of law violations. This review shall be performed within a reasonable period of time after receipt of the application. Following this review, complete applications

meeting the threshold criteria of subrule 163.8(6) shall be forwarded to the commission for action at their next meeting.

*b.* The commission may fund all or any part of an application and may make a conditional funding commitment. In making its decision, the commission will consider the amount of total capital investment per RISE dollar requested, and the amount of RISE dollars requested per job created or retained.

*c.* The commission may deny funding for projects which will not result in net job creation or job retention from a statewide point of view, for instance, projects which simply involve the relocation of jobs or other economic activity within Iowa.

*d.* Immediate opportunity project applications may, at the discretion of the commission, be considered as applications for local development projects. These applications shall be included in the current round of local development project programming, regardless of the deadlines stated in subrule 163.9(3). However, immediate opportunity project applications submitted solely to circumvent the deadlines for local development project applications shall not be considered in this manner.